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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,CPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,INR 07,SAH 02,SAL 01,
IO 21,AID 30,P 04,RSR 01,SPEC 01,/143 W

P R 181150Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 839
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3826
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2192
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 3448

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS

1. UPPER HOUSE CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN TO TAKE SHAPE AS INITIAL PROBLEMS OF PRINTING CAMPAIGN MATERIAL, ARRANGING ITINERARIES, AND OTHER HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AND CANDIDATES ARE WELL LAUNCHED INTO ACTUAL CAMPAING. ALTHOUGH TRANSPORATION OF CAMPAGIN MATERIAL AND CANDIDATES THEM-

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SELVES CONTINUES TO BE SOMEWHAT ON CATCH AS CATCH CAN BASIS, BUT MOST CANDATES CONCENTRATING ON CAMPAIGN, RATHER THAN COMPLAINING OF PROBLEMS FACING THEM.

2. UPPER HOUSE CAMPAIGN HAS BECOME MUCH MORE AN INDIVIDUAL AFFAIR THAN HAS THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIN. ONLY TWO GROUP APPEARANCES ARE PRESENTLY PLANNED, FOR AUGUST 27 AND 28 IN LONG KHANH, AND AUGUST 30 AND 31 IN SAIGON. OTHER THAN

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RELEASE DENIED ☐
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THAT, PUBLIC APPEARANCES WILL BE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SLATES IS EVIDENT IN OTHER AREAS TOO, SUCH AS RENUMERATION OF POLL WATCHERS. NGUYEN TRAN (LIST NO 46) HAS STATED, BECAUSE OF COST INVOLVED, HIS LIST WILL HAVE NO WATCHERS AND HE DOESN'T THINK THERE WILL BE ANY POLL WATCHERS FOR OTHER LISTS, EITHER.

3. MANY LISTS CONTINUE TO LOOK ON UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AS ESSENTIALLY LOTTERY, SINCE LARGE NUMBER OF LISTS (48) AND RELATIVE INEXPERICNE OF ELECTORATE WITH WHOLE ELECTORAL PROCESS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE HOW VOTERS WILL COPE WITH

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PROBLEM OF CHOOSING FROM AMONG SUCH VARIED ASSORTMENT.

4. WHILE SOME LISTS ARE ACTIVELY CAMPAINGING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, PROBABLY CLOSE TO HALF ARE DOING LITTLE BEYOND PERFUNCTORY CAMPAIGNING IN SAIGON-CHOLON AREA. SOME INDICATIONS THAT A FEW CANDIDATES USING PORTION OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY GVN FOR CAMPAIGN TO REFURBISH OR EXTEND THEIR HOMMES. UPPER HOUSE CAMPAIN COMMITTEE ARE, HOWEVER, ACTIVE IN MOST MAJOR PROVINCE CAPITALS AND IN A NUMBER OF PROVINCES WHERE RADIO FACILITIES EXIST HAVE WORKED OUT SCHECDULE TO BROADCAST CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS BY COMPETING LISTS.

5. CANDIDATES ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING ARE COVERING MORE GROUND IN CONCENTRATED, ONE-MONTH ELECTION PERIOD THAN MANY OF THEM HAVE DONE PREVIOUSLY IN YEARS. FROM CONVERSATION WITH THEM, IT APPEARS TO BE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FORCANDIDATES TO REALIZE HOW PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AND TRANSPORT EFFECT PEOPLE LIVING IN COUNTRY SIDE THROUGHOUT YEAR.

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6 CAMPAIGN IS ALSO EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR VOTERS, AS APPEARS MANY OF LATTER HAVE LITTLE OR NO UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT UPPER HOUSE IS OR WHAT ITS FUNCTIONS ARE. GEN TRAN VAN DON (LIST NO 13) STATES THAT WHEN HE IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS

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SENATE CANDIDATE HE MEETS WITH BLANK, UNCOMPREHENDING STARES. HOWEVER, WHEN HE EXPLAINS IT IS SOMETHINGHLIKE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ELECTORATE READILY UNDERSTANDS THIS BETTER-KNOWN TERM. VOTERS ALSO BEING EXPOSED TO WIDE VARIETY OFVIEWS ON BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES.

7. SENATE CAMPAIGN NOT SO FAR MARKED BY SERIOUS DEBATE ON ISSUES. MANY SENATE LISTS HAVE DEVELOPED NO REAL PROGRAM, BEYOND A FEW BROAD OBJECTIVES, PREFERRING TO EMPHASIZE PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH AUDIENCE (IN TERMS OF REGIONAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS). THIS FACILITATED BY COMPOSITION OF MOST LISTS, WHICH BALANCED FAIRLY CAREFULLY IN TERMS OF REGIONAL ORIGIN (I.E) FROM NORTH, CENTRAL, OR SOUTH VIETNAM) AND RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE. THUS, CANDIDATES ON GIVEN LIST FROM CENTRAL VIETNAM DO THE CAMPAIGNING THERE, BUDDHISTS TALK TC PREDOMINATLY BUDDHIST GROUPS, ETC.

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8 PEACE ISSUE IS GETTING MORE DISCUSSION THAN AT ANY TIME IN PAST, BUT MOST DISCUSSION HIGHLY GENERAL IN NATURE. USE-FULNESS OF RAISING PEACE ISSUE IS THAT MOST CANDIDATES RE-EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED US AND FREE WORLD SUPPORT FOR SOUT VIETNAM, WHILE UNDERLINING VIEW THAT OUTCMOME OF WAR IS FIRST AND FOREMOST OF INTEREST TO VIETNAMESE.

9. AS REPORTED IN A-26, SINCE THERE WERE ONLY TWO WEEKS BETWEEN PROMULGATION OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION LAW JUNE 15 AND DEADLINE FOR FILING JUNE 30, THERE INSUFFICIENT TIME TO DEVELOP SIX-LIST GROUPINGS TO AMPAIGN JOINTLY. AS CAMPAIGN HAS DEVELOPED, HOWEVER, SOME TENTATIVE GROUPINGS HAVE BEGUN TO EMERGE, THOUGH WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, THEY WILL HAVE NO OUTCOME REMAINS BE SEEN. FOLLOWING GROUPINGS HAVE EMERGED SO FAR:

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,INR 07,P 04,IO 21,AID 30,SAH 02,
SAL 01,RSR 01,/137 W

P R 181150Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4840
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3827
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2193
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 3448

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS

A. ALL VIETNAM BLOC- FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONAL CONGRESS OF ALL VIETANAM BLOC AUGUST 8-9, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT LISTS 32, 33, AND 34 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS JOINTLY REPRESENTING BLOC, ALTHOUGH DEGREE OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THEM NOT CLEAR.

B. DAI GIET LISTS - LIST 21, 22, 23, AND 24 ARE SUPPORTED

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BY THE DAI VIET PARTY, ALL USING RICE PLANT AS SYMBOL,
IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

C. VNQDD LISTS - ALTHOUGH THE VNQDD IS BADLY FACTIONALIZED, IT APPEARS THAT VQNDD IN I CORPS (TRADITIONAL CENTER OF ITS ACTIVITY) WILL SUPPORT LIST 27, 31, AND 42, AND MAY SUPPORT

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LIST 47.

D. SOCIALIST PARTY LISTS - THE SMALL SOCIALIST PARY IS SUPPORTING LISTS 26 AND 27. POSTERS OF THESE TWO LISTS AE FREQUENTLY FOUND SIDE BY SIDE, EVIDENTLY HAVING BEEN POSTED TOGETHER.

E. CATHOLIC LISTS - ALTHOUGH THE CALTHOLIC CHURCH, AS SUCH, HAS TAKEN NO PUBLIC POSITION ON THE SENATE ELECTIONS, INDIVIDUAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND AT LEAST SOME BISHOPS REPORTEDLY FAVOR LIST NO 3 (TRAN VAN LAM), NO 8 (NGUYEN GIA HIEN), AND NO 25 (ZIUONG CONG CUU). THESE THREE LISTS ARE HEADED BY PROMINENT CATHOLICS, ALTHOUGH FROM ONE-THIRD TO ONE-HALF OF CANDIATES ON THESE LISTS ARE BUDDHISTS.

F. MRS (MOVEMENT FOR RESTORATION OF SOUTH) IS SUPPORTING THREE LISTS: NO 26 (NGAYEN KHAC THANH), NO 27 (NGUYEN VAN TRJONG),

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AND NO 38 (MRS TRAN VAN VAN.) AS NOTED IN PARA 9(D), SOCIALIST PARTY IS SUPPORTING LISTS 26 AND 27 BUT MAKING NO NOTICEABLE EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF LIST 38.

G. GVN LIST - IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT GVN HAS "PASSED THE WORK" THAT GOVERNMENT FAVORS LISTS NO 2 (LA THANH NGHE), NO 4 (VU QUOC THUC), NO 5 (VU NGOC HOAN), NO 8 (NGUYEN GIA HIEN), NO 30 (PHAN KHOANG), AND NO 32 (HUYNH VAN NHIEM). THIS COMBINATION OF LISTS IS FARILY BALANCED, WITH APPROPRIATE NODS TO THE CATHOLICS, BUDDHISTS, HOA HAO, INTELLECTUALS, THE ARMY ETC.

10. NUMBER OF LISTS WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED INTO GROUPINGS REFERRED TO ABOVE HAVE SIMPLY URGED THEIR AUDIENCES TO VOTE ONLY FOR ONE LIST, IN ORDER NOT TO DILUTE VOTES THEY MICHT RECEIVE. LAW PERMIST VOTERS TO VOTE FOR FROM ONE TO SIX LISTS. VIS INFORMATION PROGRAM INSTRUCTS VOTERS TO VOTE TO FOR SIX LISTS, APPARENTLY ON ASSUMPTION VOTERS SHOULD VOTE FOR ENOUGH LISTS TOEXERCISE FRANCHISE FULLY.

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11. NOT CLEAR WHETHER GROUPINGS OF LISTS WILL BE OF ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICIANCES IN ELECTION. GROUPINGS OF LISTS, WHILE GENERALLY KNOWN, HAVE NOT RECEIVED MUCH PUBLICITY NOR MAY NOT BE APPARENT TO VOTERS. REGARDING ALLEGED GVN LISTS, THERE IS NO EVIDENE THAT THE GVN IS DOING MUCH TO PROMOTE THEIR ELECTION, IF, INDEED, IT HAS DONE ANYTHING. MAJOR FOCUS OF ATTENTION CONTINUES TO BE ON PRESIDENTIAL, RATHER THAN SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN.

12. A-86 SET FORTH PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT OF 20 OF MORE PROMISING INDIVIDUAL LISTS. SINCE THEN 16 LIST HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED OR WITHDRAWN, INCLUDING LISTS 31 AND 45 (NUMBERS FROM ORIGINAL LIST), ON WHICH WE HAD COMMENTED. ON WHOLE WE FEEL THESE CONTINUE BE MOST PROMISING LISTS, THOUGH LA THANH NGHE (LIST NO 2) TELLS US HE IS VERY DISCOURAGED AS RESULT OF RECENT TESTIMONRY BEFORE US CONGRESS ALLEGING HE HAD IMPROPERLY PROFITTED FROM PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTS. WHILE PROTESTING HIS INNOCENSE, HE SAYS HE NO LONGER MAKING MUCH EFFORT TO CAMPAIGN, AND HIS COLLEAGUES VERY DISCOURAGED.

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WE UNABLE TO JUDGE WHETHER THIS COUNTERBALANCED BY INDICATION THAT GVN IS SUPPORTING LIST NO 2

13. FACT OF MATTER IS THAT NO ONE, INCLUDING CANDIDATES, HAS ANY VERY CLEAR IDEA AS TO HOW ELECTORATE WILL DEAL WITH JOB OF CHOOSING FROM AMONG 48 SENATE LISTS. EVEN SOPHISTICATED, WELL-EDUCATED VIETNAMESE HAVE CONFESSED TO US THEY QUITE PUZZLEDAS TO HOW TO CHOOSE FROM SUCH VARIED FARE AS IS AVAILABLE TO THEM IN SENATE ELECTIONS.

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